UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/624,489	07/23/2003	Ralf Vierich	08005.0009	7822

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EXAMINER
LIN, SHEW FEN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2166	

DATE MAILED: 01/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.	Applicant(s)
Office Action Summary	10/624,489	VIERICH ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Shew-Fen Lin	2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE *3* MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on *7/23/2003*.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are pending in the application.

   4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

   Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

   Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

   a)☒ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

   1.☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

   2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

   3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
   application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

   * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)   Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .
3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)   5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ .   6)☐ Other: _____ .

DETAILED ACTION

a. This action is responsive to application filed on 7/23/2003.

b. The application claims foreign priority, Canada 2,394,713 (filed on 7/23/2002).

c. Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1, 6, 7, 12, and 17 are independent claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101

35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

Claims 1-5 and 12-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is

directed to non-statutory subject matter.

MPEP 2106 IV. B.2. (b)

A claim that requires one or more acts to be performed defines a process. However, not all processes are statutory under 35 U.S.C. 101. Schrader, 22 F.3d at 296, 30 USPQ2d at 1460. To be statutory, a claimed computer-related process must either: (A) result in a physical transformation outside the computer for which a practical application in the technological arts is either disclosed in the specification or would have been known to a skilled artisan (discussed in i) below), or (B) be limited to a practical application within the technological arts.

Claims 1-5 and 12-16 in view of the above-cited MPEP section, are not statutory because

they merely recite steps that can be performed by a person with pen and paper. The use of a

computer or a data processor has not been indicated being used to perform the steps. The

language of the claim raises a question as to whether the claim is directed merely to an abstract

idea that is not tied to a technological art, environment or machine which would result a practical

application producing a concrete, useful, and tangible result to form the basis of statutory subject

matter under 35 U.S.C. 101 nor is there a transformation of something physical to another state or thing.

Specification

The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: In page 2, last paragraph , line 2 , it appears that "that details **th** performance" should be changed to "that details **the** performance", line3, "not help them spot **ov rall** trends" should be changed to "not help them spot **overall** trends". In page 3, last paragraph, line 1, it appears that "OLAP reports that **tak** an" should be changed to "OLAP reports that **take** an". In page 4, last paragraph, line 3, it appears that "**el ctronically**." should be changed to "**electronically**". In page 6, last paragraph, line 3, it appears that "which the **inv ntion** may be " should be changed to "which the **invention** may be".

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 1, 6, 7, 12 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which

applicant regards as the invention. The claim terms "drill-through", "drill-through path", "a single structure" are not defined or specified in the disclosure.

Regarding claims 2-5, 8-11, 13-16, and 18-21 depend from rejected claims 1, 7, 12, and 17 respectively, comprise the same deficiencies as those claims directly or indirectly by dependence, and are therefore rejected on the same basis.

Regarding claims 12, 14, 17, and 19, the phrase "potential", "possible" renders the claim indefinite because it is unclear whether the limitation(s) following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Bedell et al. (US Patent 6,801,910, hereinafter referred as Bedell).

As to claims 1 and 7, Bedell discloses a system with methods /means / system of providing a drill-through service between two or more drill-through objects (report service for drilling up/down/across reports, column 1, lines 64-67), the objects being drill-through sources and targets, the method comprising steps of:

a) defining one or more drill-through paths between drill-through objects, the drill-through path definitions being collected in a single structure (define drill path in drill map using drill map editor, Figure 3, column 2, lines , column 8, lines 8-12; drill map can be saved in metadata as a independent objects, column 8, lines 4-8).

b) interfacing to the drill-through objects in a run-time environment using the collection of drill-though path definitions (select and filter drill path from drill map, Figures 4 and 5, column 2, lines 12-21, column 7, lines 53-62); and

c) administering and maintaining the drill-through path definitions, independently of applications using them (store as an independent objects, Figure 3, column 8, lines 4-8).

As to claims 2 and 8, Bedell discloses wherein the drill-through objects include data collections that are derived from different applications (report reads on drill-through object, column 1, lines 33-37).

As to claims 3 and 9, Bedell discloses wherein the definitions of paths are collected in a group of related structures (drill path are collected by drill maps, Figure 3, column 26, lines 10-16, column 31, lines 1-6).

As to claims 4 and 10, Bedell discloses wherein the data collection includes data cubes and data-based reports, which are derived from different report generating applications (column 1, lines 33-37, lines 42-46).

As to claims 5 and 11, Bedell discloses wherein the definition of a dill-through path includes metadata (column 8, lines 4-8).

As to claim 6, Bedell discloses a database application programming interface (API) for providing a drill-through service between a plurality of drill-through objects (column 1, lines 64-67, column 11, lines 6-10), the objects being dill-through sources and targets, the interface comprising:

a) means for defining one or more drill-through objects and their associated paths, the definitions of the drill-through paths being collected in a single structure (define drill path in drill map using drill map editor, Figure 3, column 2, lines , column 8, lines 8-12; drill map can be saved in metadata as a independent objects, column 8, lines 4-8); and

b) run-time environment means for interfacing said drill-through paths to the drill-through objects (select and filter drill path from drill map, Figures 4 and 5, column 2, lines 12-21, column 7, lines 53-62);

wherein the drill-through paths are administered and maintained independently of the applications using them (store as an independent objects, Figure 3, column 8, lines 4-8).

As to claims 12 and 17, Bedell discloses a drill-through path administration method

(report server for drilling data, column 1, lines 64-67) for use in a framework having a plurality

of sources and targets, the sources and targets having potential drill-through paths (drill map,

column 2, lines 7-9), the method comprising steps of

a) displaying the potential drill-through sources and targets (column 26, lines 10-16);

b) accepting from a tool user those sources and targets for which a drill-through path is

required (request drill, Figures 4 and 5, column 8, lines 60-67) ; and

c) for each source for which a drill-through path is required; i) importing the source

(Figure 4, item 300, column 8, lines 36-38); ii) optionally determining automatically the possible

drill-through paths for the required sources and targets (automatic find drill paths, Figure 4, item

308a, column 10, lines 39-43); iii) permitting the tool user to select one or more drill-through

paths (figure 5, item 320, column 12, lines 35-39); iv) allowing the tool user to edit the selected

drill-through paths to select appropriate parameters (set filter property, Figure 5, item 324,

column 13, lines 1-7); v) allowing the tool user to edit the selected drill-through paths to add

parameter mapping functions (add additional filter property, Figure 5, item 324, column 13, lines

1-7); and vi) encapsulating the selected drill-through paths in a program library (object library,

Figure 3, customer defined path, column 26, lines 32-33).

As to claims 13 and 18, Bedell discloses wherein the step of accepting from the tool user

those sources and targets for which a drill-through path is required uses a graphical user interface

whereon the user draws lines connecting nodes representing the sources and targets for the drill-

through path (GUI is used to make selection, column 7, lines 62-67, column 8, lines 1-3).

As to claims 14 and 19, Bedell discloses wherein the stop of optionally determining automatically the possible drill-through paths for the required sources and targets comprises the steps of

a) comparing the source and target parameter names (compare the parameter selected by user with drill path, column 10, lines 30-35, lines 39-43, lines 49-51);

b) if the source and target parameter names match then establishing a mapping between the source and target parameters (select drill path if found in the drill map, column 11, lines 47-61); and

c) if the source and target parameter names do not match then perform the steps of: i) searching for other information regarding the parameters which matches and establishing a preliminary mapping between those sources and targets (column 11, lines 59-61); ii) presenting the tool user with a list of preliminary mappings from which to make a selection (use other drill map, column 30, lines 60-63); and iii) adding the selected preliminary mappings to the list of mappings established by matching parameter names (use other drill map, column 30, lines 60-63).

As to claims 15 and 20, Bedell discloses wherein the program library is an entity selected from the group consisting of dynamically shared library, and plug-in (Figure 3, column 31, lines 1-6).

As to claims 16 and 21, Bedell discloses wherein the source comprises one or more databases or applications provided by a third party (interrogate a plurality of database or database array, column 3, lines 21-34).

Related Prior Arts

The following list of prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Poggi; Valerie S., US 6569205 B1, "Method and system for report presentation and navigation in a computer system", (...defining relationships between the multiple reports and the multiple components, and visually representing the relationships on a currently displayed report).

- Olap Train, Reed Jacobson, "Microsoft® SQL Server™ 2000 Analysis Services Step by Step", Microsoft Press, 2000.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shew-Fen Lin whose telephone number is 571-272-2672. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30AM - 5:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent

Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications

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system, see http://pair-direct.uspto.gov. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR

system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Art Unit 2166   Shew-Fen Lin
January 20, 2006   Patent Examiner